



COMMUNITY

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Sewing: The Thread That Unites Community and Purpose in SW Detroit

EL CENTRAL

HISPANIC NEWS

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SPORTS

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Panthers Lose 20-13

Abriendo caminos: la organización artística activista tiene grandes planes de expansión

Por Ámbar Ogden

En la calle Junction, al norte de la Avenida Michigan, en el suroeste de Detroit, se encuentra una antigua tienda de ladrillos, de esas que solían estar por toda la ciudad, pero que han prácticamente desaparecido. El Garage Cultural, una organización artística que promueve la justicia social y el activismo comunitario a través del arte, se ha instalado en este edificio y tiene grandes planes de desarrollo comunitario.

Amelia Duran, directora ejecutiva y de innovación artística del Garage Cultural, compró la propiedad hace unos años para tener un espacio para los artistas del suroeste de Detroit.

“Lo compré porque era consciente de la importancia de ser propietario de un edificio, cuando la gentrificación hace que el acceso al espacio sea más difícil y está expulsando a los residentes”, comentó Amelia.

Es un edificio de dos pisos que cuenta con más de un acre de terreno. El primer piso se encuentra en una importante remodelación,

donde se ha planificado la apertura de una cafetería, una tienda de temporada y un espacio comercial.

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Amelia Duran stands inside Garage Cultural, a cornerstone of cultural activism in Southwest Detroit. Photo by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval.

Breaking Ground: Activist Arts Organization Has Big Plans for Expansion

By Amber Ogden

On Junction Street, just north of Michigan Avenue in Southwest Detroit, sits an old brick

storefront—the kind that used to be all over the city, but many have since disappeared. Garage Cultural, an arts organization that promotes social

justice and community activism through art, has taken up residence in this building and has big community development plans.

Amelia Duran, CEO and arts innovator of Garage Cultural, bought the property a few years ago to save space for Southwest Detroit artists.

“I bought it because I was conscious of the importance of owning a building when gentrification is making space harder to access and is pushing residents out,” Duran said.

The building, a two-story storefront, comes with over an acre of land. The first floor is currently undergoing a major redevelopment with plans to open a coffee bar, a pop-up market, and retail space.

The second floor of the building will be a mix of meeting rooms and a future dwelling for artists in residence or a temporary space to call home while in transition. Garage Cultural has a homelike feel, with comfortable couches and large windows that radiate lots of natural sunlight.

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SER Metro-Detroit Receives \$500K from State of Michigan

At the recent Amigos de SER Recognition Luncheon, a check for \$500,000 was presented to SER Metro for their Youth Reengagement Center by Michigan State Legislators led by Senator Mary Cavanagh and supported by Senators Stephanie Chang, Darrin Camillari, and

Representative Veronica Paiz who were in attendance. The \$3.5 million renovation of the SER facility at 9215 Michigan Ave. in Southwest Detroit features state of the art classrooms, offices, group meeting spaces and a new construction lab that will be utilized for all SER construction

and skilled trades training programs. In addition to funding from the State of Michigan, private funding was received from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Huntington Bank, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan and AT&T.



Michigan legislators presented SER Metro-Detroit President and CEO Eva Garza Dewaelsche with a check for \$500,000 at the recent Amigos de SER Luncheon in Detroit. Pictured (from l to r): Rep. Veronica Paiz, Sen. Darrin Camillari, Eva Garza Dewaelsche, Sen. Mary Cavanagh and Sen. Stephanie Chang. Not pictured, Rep Tyrone Carter. Photo by Jose Juarez

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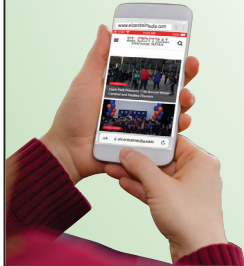
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Activist Arts Organization

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It will serve as a sanctuary for community organizers, artists, and musicians to express themselves freely and without limits. Part of the expansion plan is to build a modern recording studio for Southwest's burgeoning music scene. Local talent is getting more exposure through Southwest Fest, the annual music festival attended by media and music lovers from across the region. Duran was drawn to the property because it could accommodate her vision of building a state-of-the-art sound and light stage with ample seating for indoor and open-air performances. "We're going to build another large multifunctional space for indoor concerts, events, and panels," Duran said. The groundbreaking for the permanent stage will be in the fall. Garage Cultural is widely known for its murals, which have visually transformed Southwest Detroit. Through the Art on

the Block (Arte en la Cuadra) Initiative, created in 2010, they have commissioned over 20 murals in the community. In 2018, after receiving a \$70,000 grant from the Knight Arts Challenge, the collective hosted a 10-day art and mural festival in Southwest Detroit, highlighting Mexican heritage and cultural connection. This kind of art is significant, says Melissa Miranda Morse, Associate Director of the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies at Wayne State University. She examines public art from a broad perspective and explains why Latinos in the United States value murals. "Public art has helped to expand Latinx cultures, and seeing it was a way to be seen and to see yourself. It is also a way to brighten up and beautify spaces that might be rundown because of a lack of resources and makes art accessible." Morse said. "Marginalized communities don't always get to tell their

stories publicly, but public art is a way to do so," she adds. Most recently, Garage Cultural received the Gilbert Family Foundation "Seed and Bloom" award, a \$150,000 grant over three years that supports under-represented artists in Detroit. Duran looks forward to continuing her work of turning Garage Cultural into a cultural epicenter in Southwest Detroit and feels proud of how far the organization has come. She credits her father, Ismael Duran, the founder of Garage Cultural and a renowned community and cultural organizer committed to social justice, with her opinions and beliefs about art. A Chilean immigrant, Ismael Duran, immigrated during the 1970s, relocating his family to the United States. They established a new home in Detroit in the hopes of escaping political upheaval after the military coup d'état that overthrew a democratically elected socialist government. The coup ended one of the longest-standing democracies in

Latin America. "Ismael saw art as a tool by which we shape our reality," said arts organizer Shaun Nethercott. He was game to work with anyone and understood that high arts, such as the Detroit Symphony playing at Saint Anne's church, were as important as organizing revolutionary poetry." Ismael was a musician and arts instigator who focused on addressing the struggles faced by Latin Americans. He brought art and activism to Southwest Detroit, which is still the ethos of Garage Cultural, the organization he founded. Duran honors him and his memory with an ofrenda on the second floor of the new building. Amelia Duran has been involved in community work through nonprofits since age 21. Inspired by her mother, a retired Detroit Public School art teacher, and her father, an arts revolutionary, she says taking over Garage Cultural was not a hard decision to make.

Photos and captions by: Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

"It's in her blood to be of service to others," Duran often recalls her father saying. Today, Duran is carrying the torch of Garage's legacy, ensuring that people in the arts and cultural space have a place of belonging and a strong sense of community. "It does feel good to be in this position now," Duran said. "Even though it's taken a lot of sweat equity and emotional labor."

Amber Ogden is a freelance writer born and raised in Detroit. Her work has been published in Forbes, Chevy in the D, Model D, and Rachel Ray Every Day. In her free time, she enjoys art, culture, and eating throughout the city.

The Race and Justice Reporting Initiative made this story possible. The initiative aims to build trust between the news media and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities and strengthen representative democracy.

Organización artística activista

Con't from pg. 1

El segundo piso tendrá una combinación de salas de reuniones y una vivienda para artistas en residencia o un espacio temporal al que llamar hogar durante su transición. Garage Cultural tiene un ambiente hogareño, con cómodos sofás y grandes ventanales que irradian mucha luz natural. Servirá como un santuario para que organizadores comunitarios, artistas y músicos se expresen libremente y sin límites. Parte del plan de expansión es construir un estudio de grabación moderno para la floreciente escena musical del Southwest. El talento local está obteniendo promoción a través del Southwest Fest, el festival musical anual al que asisten los medios de comunicación y amantes de la música de toda la región. Amelia se sintió atraída por la propiedad pues se adaptaba a su visión de construir un escenario con luz y sonido de última generación, con amplios asientos para presentaciones en interiores y al aire libre. "Construiremos otro gran espacio multifuncional bajo techo para conciertos, eventos y

exposiciones" comentó Amelia. La inauguración del escenario se llevará a cabo en otoño. Garage Cultural es ampliamente conocido por sus murales, que han transformado visualmente el suroeste de Detroit, a través de la Iniciativa Arte en la Cuadra, creada en 2010 y que han encargado más de 20 murales en la comunidad. En 2018, después de recibir una subvención de \$70,000 del Knight Arts Challenge, el colectivo organizó un festival de arte y murales de 10 días, destacando la herencia mexicana y la conexión cultural. Este tipo de arte es significativo, expresa Melissa Miranda Morse, directora asociada del Centro de Estudios Latinos y Latinoamericanos de la Universidad de Wayne State, quien examina el arte urbano desde una perspectiva amplia y explica por qué los latinos en Estados Unidos valoran los murales. "El arte urbano ha ayudado a expandir las culturas latinas, y verlo era una forma de ser visto y de reflejarse; también es una forma de alegrar y embellecer espacios que podrían estar deteriorados por falta de recursos y hace que el arte sea accesible. "

comentó la directora. "Las comunidades marginadas no siempre pueden contar sus historias públicamente, pero el arte urbano es una forma de hacerlo", añadió. Más recientemente, Garage Cultural recibió el premio "Seed and Bloom" de la Gilbert Family Foundation, una subvención de \$150.000 durante tres años, que apoya a artistas subrepresentados en Detroit. Amelia espera continuar su trabajo de convertir el Garage Cultural en un epicentro de cultura y se siente orgullosa de lo lejos que ha llegado la organización. Ella le da el crédito a su padre, Ismael Durán, fundador de Garage Cultural y un reconocido organizador comunitario y cultural comprometido con la justicia social, por sus opiniones y creencias sobre el arte. Un inmigrante chileno, Ismael Durán, emigró durante la década de 1970 y trasladó a su familia a los Estados Unidos. Establecieron un nuevo hogar en Detroit con la esperanza de escapar de la agitación política, después del golpe de estado militar, que derrocó a un gobierno socialista, elegido democráticamente. El golpe acabó con una de las democracias más antiguas

de América Latina. "Ismael vio el arte como una herramienta mediante la cual le damos forma a nuestra realidad", comentó el organizador artístico Shaun Nethercott. Estaba dispuesto a trabajar con cualquiera y entendía que las bellas artes, como la Sinfónica de Detroit que tocaba en la iglesia de Santa Ana, eran tan importantes como organizar poesía revolucionaria". Ismael fue un músico y promotor artístico, que se centró en abordar las luchas que enfrentan los latinoamericanos. Llevó el arte y el activismo al suroeste de Detroit, que sigue siendo el espíritu del Garage Cultural, la organización que fundó. Amelia lo honra a él y a su memoria con una ofrenda en el segundo piso del edificio. Amelia Duran ha estado involucrada en trabajo comunitario a través de organizaciones sin fines de lucro desde los 21 años. Inspirada por su madre, una maestra de arte jubilada de la Escuela Pública de Detroit, y su padre, un revolucionario de las artes, expresa que hacerse cargo del Garage Cultural no fue una decisión difícil de tomar. "Está en su sangre estar al servicio de los demás", recuerda

Amelia que a menudo decía su padre. Hoy, ella lleva la antorcha del legado del Garage, asegurando que Las personas en el espacio artístico y cultural tienen un lugar de pertenencia y un fuerte sentido de comunidad. "Se siente bien estar en esta posición ahora...aunque ha requerido mucho sudor y trabajo emocional". Comentó Amelia.

Amber Ogden es una escritora independiente que nació y creció en Detroit. Su trabajo ha sido publicado en Forbes, Chevy in the D, Model D y Rachel Ray Every Day. En su tiempo libre disfruta del arte, la cultura y comer por la ciudad.

Race and Justice Reporting Initiative hizo posible esta historia. La iniciativa tiene como objetivo generar confianza entre los medios de comunicación y las comunidades negras, indígenas y de color y fortalecer la democracia representativa.

Traducción por Carmen Elena Luna

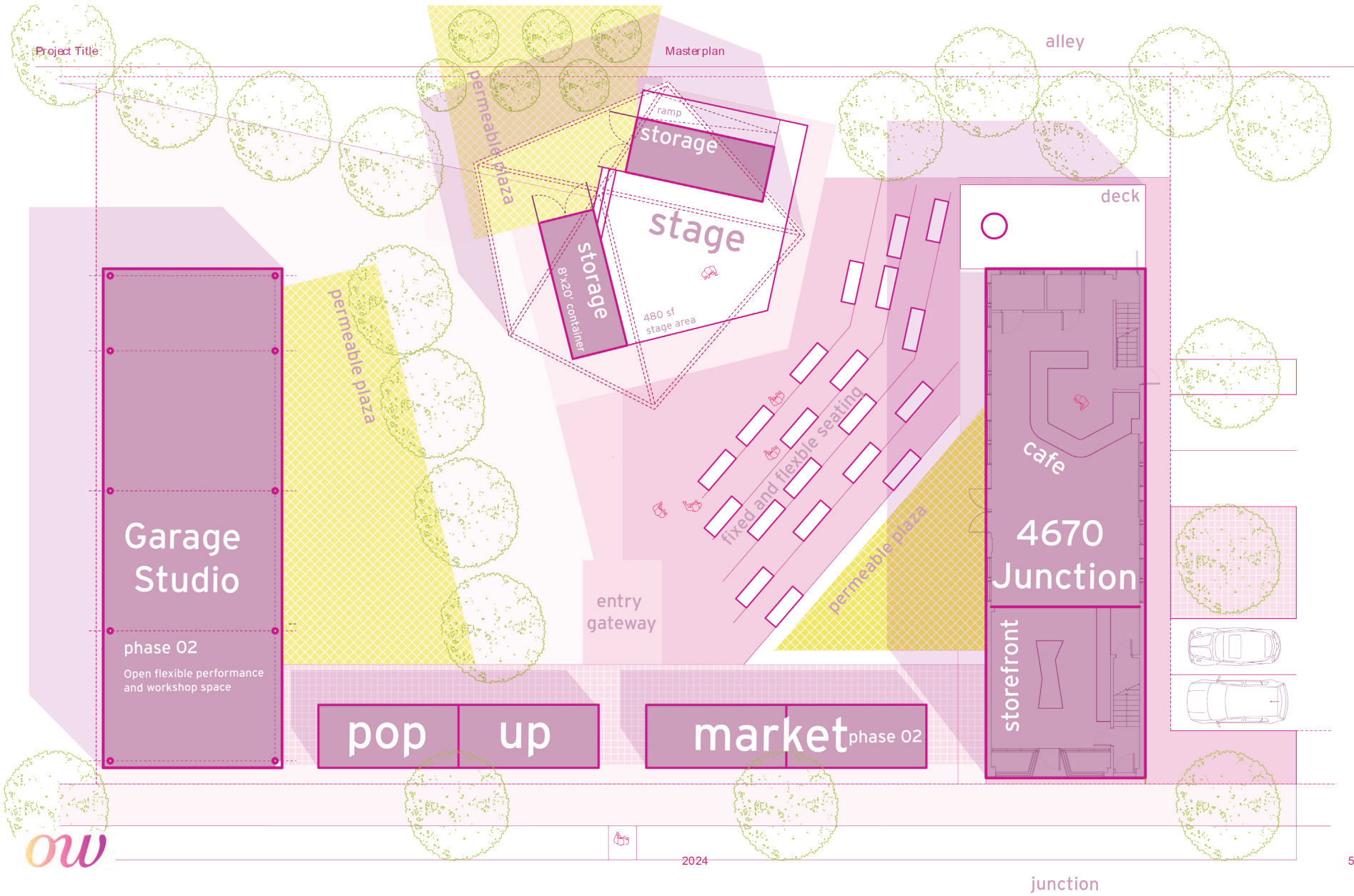


Amelia Duran is accompanied by her son Gabriel Durán inside Garage Cultural, a cornerstone of cultural activism in Southwest Detroit



Amelia Duran stands before Garage Cultural

Garage Cultural's Community Development Plans



Southwest Detroit's Garage Cultural has ambitious community development plans, including a coffee bar, concert stage, a pop up market, retail space and a modern recording studio

Detroit's New Gateway Sign Installed in Southwest Detroit

Detroit’s brand-new Gateway sign has been installed to welcome visitors and residents to the City of Detroit ahead of this year’s NFL Draft which is expected to draw hundreds of thousands to Detroit at the end of this month. The signage will be a permanent fixture as drivers enter the city for years to come.

The sign has been installed along Eastbound I-94, between Central Ave. and Cecil Ave.in Southwest

Detroit. Next week the Gateway letters will be illuminated with LED lighting.

Crafted by Fairmount Sign Company, the letters for the sign are 8 feet tall and are mounted on 2-foot-tall concrete blocks. Fairmount also created smaller signs for locations including I-75 at 8 Mile, I-96 at Telegraph, I-94 at Moross, Southfield at 8 Mile, and Southfield at Ford Rd.



The new Detroit Gateway sign is installed along I-94 freeway. Photo City of Detroit.

City’s Taxpayer Resource Fair to help homeowners avoid risk of foreclosure, share vital resources

The Detroit Taxpayer Service Center is hosting a resource fair to provide information on property taxes, programs, and other resources to help homeowners avoid the risk of foreclosure. The fair will be held Friday, April 12 from 3-6 p.m. at Roberto Clemente Recreation, 2631 Bagley St. in southwest Detroit.

Attendees can get information about current and delinquent property taxes, property tax programs (e.g., the Plan Ahead Program, the Homeowners Property Tax Exemption (HOPE) program), and Primary Residence Exemptions (PREs). Information about home improvement loans,

utility assistance/programs, and convenient ways to pay taxes will be provided.

Agencies/departments participating include:

- City of Detroit Treasury
- Wayne County Treasurer’s Office
- Office of the Assessors/ Board of Review
- Housing and Revitalization Department
- Detroit Health Department
- Detroit Department of Transportation
- Detroit Ombudsman Office
- Detroit Water & Sewerage Department
- Michigan Secretary of State
- Detroit Land Bank Authority
- Civil Rights, Inclusion,

and Opportunity (CRIO) Department

“We know how important home ownership is for Detroiters and this Taxpayer Resource Fair is a way to share and connect residents to vital programs and other resources that will help in maintaining home ownership,” said Nikhil Patel, City of Detroit Chief Deputy CFO and Treasurer.

For more information on the Taxpayer Resource Fair, please email DTSC@detroitmi.gov.

**Translators will be available upon request*

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3:00 – 6:00 PM

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- Diversified Credit Union
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- Wayne Metro
- And much more

For more information, email DTSC@detroitmi.gov

Partner agencies and City of Detroit Departments participating include the Detroit Taxpayer Service Center (DTSC), Office of the Assessor, Wayne County Treasurer's Office, HOPE Program, DivDat and Diversified Credit Union.

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Lessening the paying field

WORLD'S

SPECIAL

CULTURES

Rutilio Patiño, Photographer

Rutilio Patiño, a village photographer



Rutilo Patiño was a photographer who was born in 1880 in Jaral del Progreso, a municipality in the south of the state of Guanajuato, one of the states of the Mexican Republic with the largest migrant population in the American Union. He died in 1962.

What attracts us to see photographs? Why do people treasure the photography in an album?

Rutilo Patiño studied in Guadalajara and throughout his life he took care of his photographic studio in Jaral del Progreso, leaving us a legacy about the life of his people through his eyes, which perhaps if we had the opportunity at hand, we could organize his work as if we were a family album.

Since 1997, interest in knowing the work of Rutilo Patiño was awakened when the historian and photographer Gustavo López was given a suitcase with more than seven thousand negatives of his photographs, not only of great quality in visual terms, but also because they show characteristics of the life of the agricultural communities of the Mexican Bajío region at the beginning of the 20th century, thereby giving a significant value to his work.

Not much is known about Rutilo Patiño, but rather loose data that can awaken the imagination about this character. It is said that he smoked a lot, that he had only one lung.

We can see in his photographs that the societies of that time depended almost exclusively on the economic income



generated by the main productive activity, agriculture. Being very small communities, people were linked by multiple factors, many times the links were consanguineous and all members of

the families that made up the peasant elites were fully identified, in that sense Rutilo Patiño Patiño belonged to said elite, since His family had land and even owned some of the first productive industries in Jaral.



Rutilo Patiño, dedicating himself to offering his photography services to the population, and being for many years the only photographer in the community, had a temporary record of the inhabitants, since photographs were requested not only as identification methods that accompany many official documents, but also as a record, for memory of a moment, or simply for the pleasure of having a portrait.



We can imagine that for the people of Jaralense, going to Don Rutilo's studio was an experience not only desired, but necessary and common, since many photographs of deceased people have been found, which gives us access to a tradition of the community.

Sigue cada semana en

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Hispanic News

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,

by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL

CULTURAS

DEL MUNDO

Rutilio Patiño, fotógrafo

Rutilio Patiño, un fotógrafo de pueblo

Rutilio Patiño fue un fotógrafo que nació en 1880 y murió en 1962 en Jaral del Progreso, un municipio al sur del estado de Guanajuato, uno de los estados de la república mexicana con mayor población migrante en la unión americana.

¿Qué nos atrae de ver fotografías? ¿Por qué la gente las atesora en un álbum?



Rutilio Patiño estudió en Guadalajara y a lo largo de su vida se ocupó de su estudio fotográfico en el mismo Jaral del Progreso, dejándonos una herencia sobre la vida de su pueblo a través de su mirada, que quizá si tuviéramos la oportunidad a mano, pudiéramos ordenar, como álbum familiar.

Desde 1997 el interés por conocer la obra de Rutilio Patiño se despertó cuando le entregaron al historiador y fotógrafo Gustavo López una maleta con más de siete mil negativos de sus fotografías no sólo de gran calidad en términos visuales, sino también porque en ellas se muestran características de la vida de las comunidades agrícolas de la región del Bajío mexicano a principios del siglo XX, dando con esto un valor significativo de su obra.

No es mucho lo que se sabe de Rutilio Patiño, sino datos sueltos que mucho pueden despertar la imaginación sobre este personaje. Se dice que fumaba mucho, que tenía un solo pulmón.

Así, las sociedades de aquella época dependían casi exclusivamente de los ingresos económicos generados por la principal actividad productiva, la agricultura. Al ser comunidades muy pequeñas, las personas



estaban vinculadas por múltiples factores, muchas veces los vínculos eran consanguíneos y se identificaban plenamente a todos los miembros de las familias que integraban las elites campesinas, en ese sentido Rutilio Patiño Patiño pertenecía a dicha élite, ya que su familia contaba con tierras e inclusive eran

propietarios de algunas de las primeras industrias productivas de Jaral.

Rutilio Patiño al dedicarse a ofrecer sus servicios de fotografía a la población, y al ser durante muchos años el único fotógrafo de la comunidad, tenía un registro temporal de los habitantes, ya que las fotografías eran solicitadas no sólo como métodos de identificación que acompañan muchos documentos oficiales, sino también como registro, por memoria de algún momento, o simplemente por el gusto de retratarse.



Podemos imaginar que para los jaralenses ir al estudio de Don Rutilio era una experiencia no sólo deseada, sino necesaria y común, pues se ha encontrado muchas fotografías de personas fallecidas, lo que nos da acceso a una tradición de la comunidad.



Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en

EL CENTRAL

Hispanic News

Sewing: The Thread That Unites Community and Purpose in SW Detroit

By Amber Ogden

Just three blocks south of the Ambassador Bridge in Southwest Detroit a room full of lively ladies measure their hips and waist. They are preparing for their next sewing project, a maxi skirt. Self-taught seamstress Volencia Simpson, owner and creator of Sew In Detroit, passes out bright, beautiful fabrics and instructs the participants on how to start. Simpson reassures the beginners they can complete this sewing project with no problem, just a needle, and some patience is needed during the Sip N Sew party she occasionally offers.

Simpson started Sew In Detroit in 2018, offering weekly sewing classes every Saturday for all ages and skill levels. Recently, adding Friday night sewing parties, located in the old Latino Family Services building on Fort St and West Grand Blvd., the building still serves as a gathering place for the community. Today, it also serves as an event space, including loft apartments overlooking the Detroit River.

Simpson believes that sewing is not just a hobby but also a way of life that can provide individuals with a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

"Ever since childhood, I wanted to be a teacher, lawyer, and fashion designer. I'm blessed to have lived a piece of all the titles. I can say I love teaching most of all, and I was trying to figure out how to incorporate my love for fashion into the sewing classes, and that's how I arrived here," Simpson says.

In addition to sewing trends

being on the rise, clothing swaps have become more popular as well, like those hosted by Free Market and Spotlite Detroit., Sewing saves money, especially for families with children. But clothing swaps also save money, and you can mend an article of clothing, hem pants, or tailor a jacket without having to pay someone.

Rey Benedict Pador is an Associate Professor at The College for Creative Studies, where he has been teaching for several years. He is a highly experienced and skilled dressmaker with a deep understanding of the technicalities involved in traditional sewing and stitchwork. He believes these practices are beneficial for the environment.

"I think the state of the world is very important, especially for Gen Z kids who see that the world is burning," Pador says. "We are living on a burning planet." According to Royal Waste Services, the fashion industry contributes 97 million pounds of waste that negatively affects Planet Earth.

"Now, with a growing trend of being more conscious and reusing clothes that are already available, (this) is where we are headed today," Pador says.

Pador sees a growing trend toward becoming more aware of one's surroundings. The increase in the number of people making their own clothes can be attributed to the environmental movement and the pandemic, as people were forced to stay home.

"Even though there were no big events to attend, people



The model showcases a 'Jacaurtii Cardigan' by designer Jordin Gaut, a former student at Sew In Detroit Eastern Market mural by Lunch Money

tried hand stitching, knitting, or experimenting with wrapping fabric around their bodies and moving away from fast fashion," Pador says.

Volencia Simpson says her favorite thing about Sew In Detroit is seeing a room full of ladies eager to learn a new skill and also seeing her young students motivated to start their own fashion lines and businesses. In 2023, Jordin Gaut, a talented 16-year-old designer from the local area, showcased her fashion line, Jacaurtii Cardigans, in the highly competitive Jr. Sharktank competition held in Detroit. Despite the intense competition,

Jordin's unique designs and exceptional creativity earned her a well-deserved spot.

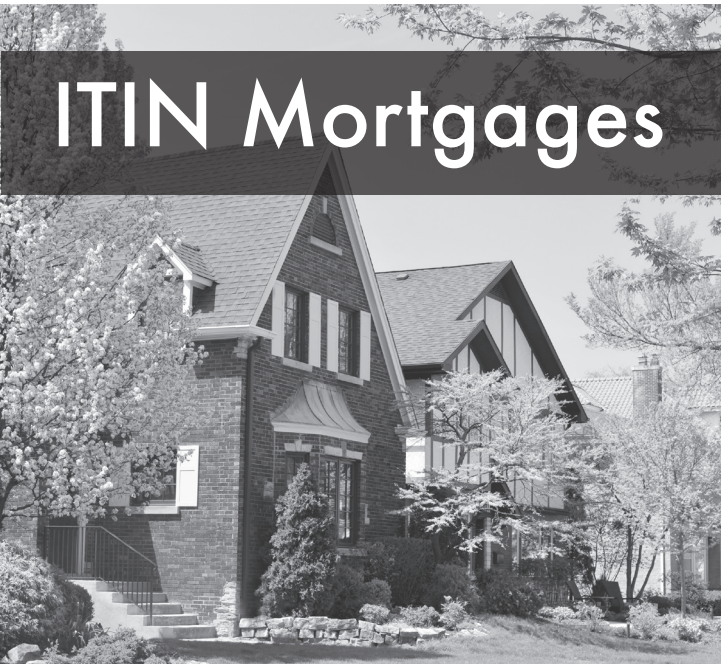
Sew In Detroit offers sewing classes every Saturday for beginners and intermediate levels; no experience is required to sign up. The cost is \$35 per class, and over the course of four weeks, students learn everything from operating a sewing machine to creating a finished sewing project. Simpson guides students through every step of the process, ensuring that you have a fun and fulfilling sewing experience.

Sew In Detroit is located at 3815 W Fort St., Suite 114,

Detroit, MI 48216. For more information, call 248-252-7827 or visit www.sewindetroit.weebly.com

Amber Ogden is a freelance writer born and raised in Detroit. She has published work in Forbes, Chevy in the D, Model D, and Rachel Ray Every Day. She enjoys art, culture, and eating through the city in her free time.

This story was made possible by the Race and Justice Reporting Initiative, which aims to build trust between the news media and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities and strengthen representative democracy.



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44,711 Tiger Fans Celebrate “Opening Day” At Comerica Tigers 5 – Oakland 4

Photos by Mike Alberts/ EL CENTRAL



The game temperature of 43 degrees with 14mph winds did not reduce the happy homecoming victory for the Tigers



Comerica now has the largest scoreboard in the American League



Grace West (VOICE) finalist from Canton sang the Anthem



Lion Penei Sewell delivered the first pitch with wife and family



Matt Vierling rounds third after he blasted a line drive homer to put the Tigers on the scoreboard in the opener.... Go Tigers!



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MULTILINGUALISM, MIGRATION, AND MURALISM IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT

APRIL 19TH, 2024
4:15PM-5:45PM

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• Emmanuel Orozco Castellanos
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PANELISTS:
• Elton Monroy Duran. Conceptual Artist and Kresge Arts Fellow
• Alicia Diaz. WSU Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies Faculty
• Elena Herrada. Community Activist and Oral Historian
• Louis Aguilar. Author and Reporter

From the *Detroit industry Murals* to the recent proliferation of street art, Muralism remains central to the Latinx collective imaginary in the Motor City. As part of *Translating Michigan*, a public humanities project curated by University of Michigan faculty, this panel will explore how murals have and can empower people to resist erasure and envision Latinx utopias grounded in plurality.

The event will feature a special performance inspired by real interactions between Frida Kahlo and Detroit's Mexican community, followed by a catered reception highlighting the local cuisine.

This event is free and open to the public.
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Bad Bunny Makes a Grand Return to Detroit, Paying Homage to Longtime Fans

By Juanita Zuniga

High atop an elevated stage, superstar Bad Bunny looked out over an adoring crowd. The pitch-black arena was lit only by the glowing boots that hung on the necks of concertgoers, a souvenir given for free at the door. The only thing audible at that moment was the 16,000+ voices of the attendees yelling, “Beh-Nee-TO.”

Bad Bunny took a deep breath, put his hands in a prayer-like form to show his gratitude, and gave Detroit an unforgettable performance to a packed Little Caesars Arena (LCA).

Born Benito Antonio Martinez-Ocasio, Bad Bunny made his

return to Detroit Saturday night at LCA for his Most Wanted Tour, which follows the release of his 5th solo album, “Nadie Sabe Lo Que Va Pasar Mañana.”

Since his first appearance in the Motor City in 2018, Bad Bunny has become a household name. His influence and popularity go beyond the Latino music scene and has become a cultural phenomenon. El Conejo Malo has sold out arenas and stadiums in the United States and Latin America and had multiple songs on the Billboard Top 200.

With record-breaking attendance of about 16,000, Latinos who drove in from all over Michigan to see the Puerto Rican superstar and rapper. It

was one of the most attended events at LCA since the arena opened in 2017. Only a few other artists, including Drake and Taylor Swift, have drawn such a crowd.

The ReggaetonTrap artist visited Detroit in 2018. At that time, he played at a much smaller venue—The Masonic Temple—which was a stop on his first-ever U.S. tour, La Nueva Religion.

Dressed in glitz, glam, and a lot of fringe, Bad Bunny made that night in Detroit one for the books. From the jaw-dropping backup dancers, an electrifying and immersive light show, and songs from his trap era along with songs from his latest

Album, Nadie Sabe lo Que Va Pasar Mañana, El Conejo Malo showed out for Detroit Fans.

The love for Bad Bunny was heavy in Detroit, and at every chance and in between songs, El Conejo Malo thanked them for staying true to him throughout his musical journey.

“We had to go out and see him in Chicago for his last tour, Un Verano Sin Ti. I’m so glad to see him now in my hometown as a proud Detroiter, I’m so excited,” said Lucero Toral, a concert attendee.

Bad Bunny is on tour now through the end of May in the U.S.

Photos and captions by: Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

Juanita Zuniga is a graduate of Kalamazoo College with degrees in Anthropology, Sociology, and English. She was born and raised in SW Detroit and still resides there today. She is passionate about her community and hopes to serve it through writing. In her spare time, Juanita is a Latin history and music enthusiast. She is also a Cancer Sun, Libra Moon, and Cancer Rising.

This story was made possible by the Race and Justice Reporting Initiative, which aims to build trust between the news media and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities and strengthen representative democracy.



Bad Bunny engages a packed audience with his Spanish-language concert at Detroit's Little Caesars Arena on April 6, 2024



Orchestral accompaniments during Bad Bunny's Little Caesars Arena debut in Detroit



Bad Bunny infuses Detroit's Little Caesars Arena with club-like energy, as fans contribute to the spectacle with synchronized LED necklaces during his performance

Panthers lose 20-13



Sports Editor: Dan Grashuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

The Michigan Panthers (1-1) lost to the defending USFL champions Birmingham Stallions (2-0), 20-13.

The Michigan Panthers host the Houston Roughnecks, this Sunday, April 14th, at 12:00 pm (ABC).

Photos below are highlights from Michigan Panthers and Birmingham Stallions



EJ Perry (4) makes a pass attempt



QB Adrian Martinez (9) takes a QB keeper up field, tackle made by Kendrick Whitehead Jr. (32)



Marcus Simms (9) catches a long ball for a big gain



Trey Quinn (18) reception



Wes Hills (31) makes a cut on Lorenzo Burns (22)



Jake Bates (38) kick off

Rough Day At Keyworth



For two teams who had never played each other before, Detroit City FC and North Carolina FC showed plenty of ill-will. The hard fouls and rough challenges started early and continued right up until the end of the twelfth minute of second half stoppage time. Referee Nabil Bansalah managed to keep the simmering tempers from boiling over, issuing four yellow cards to each team in a foul-filled game that won't be remembered for the quality of play.

Of course, results matter. DCFC won their fourth game in a row to start the 2024 USL Championship season in some style. It was fitting that a game as ugly as this was decided by an own goal. Inside nine minutes Rhys Williams drove down the right wing, muscled his way past a much larger North Carolina defender and attempted



David Levine
EL CENTRAL

a cross for the onrushing Elvis Amoh. The ball took a wicked deflection off defender Nelson Flores and eluded the goalkeeper. That set off the smoke bombs from the East Stand as the 2024 goal bonanza continued.

Sadly, that was it for anything close to the Beautiful Game. Chances were few and far between for both sides. The foul count mounted. Officially, the league recorded forty-five in total. With the delays due to players picking themselves up after each clattering, not only did the second half have twelve minutes of stoppage time, but the first half had six. It's a good thing the weather cooperated and produced a lovely Saturday afternoon. Imagine sitting or standing through 108 minutes of poor, foul filled, and injury laden football.

As for injuries, DCFC suffered the most. Elvis Amoh, who had a quiet first half, burst through the North Carolina defense less than ten minutes into

the second half and was on the verge of opening a real chance when he went down without contact. He lay prone on the field for several minutes with what looked to be a serious groin injury. Only a few minutes after play resumed, there was another long delay when Williams took a blow to the head while defending a corner. He ended up with a fractured cheekbone.

Several other DCFC players will certainly be nursing bumps and bruises from a physical game. Fortunately, the club has this weekend off ahead of the third round of the Lamar Hunt US Open Cup. Le Rouge will start their run in the oldest domestic cup tournament with a derby against the Michigan Stars of NISA. This is a bitter rivalry dating back to the amateur days and will certainly be an emotionally charged game. DCFC will host the game on Tuesday at 7pm in Keyworth Stadium. Tickets are on sale.

Amoh and Williams will certainly be out of the Cup match. Missing two key players will hurt Danny Dichio's team. They have had their best start to a season in three tries. Ben Morris will probably retake the right wing position, while Yazeed Mathews is the logical choice at center forward. Dichio also has forward Victor Bezerra on loan from the Chicago Fire, who has yet to make an appearance on the gameday roster. Dichio could use the Cup match to rotate the squad, but with a free weekend, the injury-free starters will be rested.

The Michigan Stars started league play in NISA with a 3-2 win over the Savannah Clovers. The league delayed its started due to the uncertainty surrounding the number of teams who would compete in 2024. However, the Stars have already played in the first two rounds of the Open Cup defeating Steel City FC of Pittsburgh and Minnesota United II, setting up Tuesday's derby.

Both teams will have momentum and undefeated starts coming into the big clash on Tuesday night.

DCFC's fourth league win kept the team tied with Louisville City at the top of the Eastern Conference. Louisville, who featured in the league's first ever game on a major network last weekend, has a superior goal difference. Their high-powered offense ran up a 5-3 win over Indy XI in the national television showcase. The two sides won't meet in the league until the end of May for a midweek clash in Kentucky by which time it will be evident whether they have the staying power for a long run through the summer. With most of MLS absent from the Open Cup, the two teams will also be looking to make a deep run in the tournament. The winner earns a spot CONCACAF Champions League. There hasn't been a winner from outside MLS this century. This could be the year.

Detroit FC beats North Carolina FC

The Detroit City FC Mens defeated North Carolina FC, this past weekend, 1-0.

The next game for the Detroit City FC Mens, is this Tuesday, April 16th, hosting Michigan Stars FC (NISA) at 7:00 pm at Keyworth Stadium, than host Oakland Roots SC, on Saturday, April 20th, at 4:00 pm (ESPN+, DETROIT50).

The Detroit City FC Mens go on the road, on Saturday, April 27th, to take on Pittsburgh Riverhounds at 7:00 pm (ESPN+, DETROIT50).

For more information about Detroit City FC, visit detcityfc.com and follow @DetroitCityFC on Twitter and Facebook and @detroitcityfootballclub on Instagram.

Photos below are highlights from Saturdays game between Detroit City FC and North Carolina FC

Photos provided by Detroit City FC (photographer Jon DeBoer)



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EDITORIAL OPINION



“Protect and Defend Means Protect and Defend!”

By Raoul Lowery Contreras

It was a weekday, the 11th of April 1951. I was riding my bike to Our Lady of Sacred Heart Elementary School six blocks from home. I was in the 5th grade. At the corner, there was and still is a small grocery store. Outside the door was a newspaper stand. The gigantic headline read: TRUMAN FIRES McARTHUR!

I screeched to a halt, turned and raced home; I burst into my parent’s bedroom yelling “That son-of-a-bitch Truman fired General McArthur.”

That was my first ever political statement. It woke up my step-father who, though Navy, had served under General McArthur in the South Pacific.

Though colorful for a fifth grader, time and a college

education full of studying the American democracy and its constitution twenty years later - I would never make such a statement today.

That is why I’m taking the position that the United States Supreme Court must not take Donald J. Trump’s side in what Trump states is his full immunity from any criminal charges by anyone for decisions and actions as President of the United States.

In his own words, he “could shoot someone” in broad daylight and he could get away with it. As others say, he could order Seal Team Six to take out political opponents and he would be untouchable if he had total immunity as President even from a murder charge if he ordered an assassination of political opponents.

Or as former President Richard Nixon told a British interviewer, “...when the president does it, that means that it is not illegal.”

It is true that the President cannot be sued in civil court for Presidential decisions or actions. But there is no such protection for criminal acts.

Trump maintains he has total immunity. A federal district judge ruled no, he doesn’t. A three judge panel of the Court of Appeals agreed. Trump appealed to the Supreme Court and they took the case, much to the surprise of some experts. But then the court scheduled oral arguments for Apr 25, 2024-giving Trump what he was fishing for, a delay.

The problem is that there is a chance the court might rule 5-4 in his favor which would kill some of the cases against him of the 91 total indictments he is fighting. If Chief Justice John Roberts joins with Amy Coney Barrett and the three Democrats, Trump will lose. Those two judges are

the key. Nudging them is a “amicus brief” -- friend of the court brief -- filed by a gaggle of retired four star admirals and generals with some key former Department of Defense presidentially-appointed leaders.

None of these people are political hacks. Their views are solidly for the Constitution. For, as they say, they didn’t swear to be loyal to any individual, president or not, they swore to uphold, defend and protect the Constitution of the United States.

The “brief” including the names of the 19 signers is here.

For the record, I took the same oath when Presidents Dwight David Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Baines Johnson were my Commanders-in-Chief.

The brief’s logic is simple: The Constitution places the military under civilian control, under the Commander-in-Chief. The Constitution requires that the military live under “the

rule of law.” It also demands the President “faithfully execute...laws” that the U.S. Congress passes. Thus, the military would be in a position the President would not be. He could commit criminal acts protected by immunity and the military could not even consider following a criminal order.

Who is right, Trump or the generals, admirals and former leaders? Those who follow and protect and defend the Constitution -- that’s who.

The Constitution fired General Douglas McArthur 73 years ago. I didn’t know that on the 11th of April 1951 only because I was 10 years and 3 months old and had never heard of or read the Constitution of the United States. That was my excuse.

I wonder what Trump claims as his excuse for not knowing the Constitution -- especially the words that require the President to “faithfully execute the laws.”

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor
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CORRECTION AND EDITOR’S NOTE:
The photo of a check presentation to SER Metro-Detroit which appears on page 1 was mistakenly left out of our report last week on the Amigos de SER Luncheon. We regret the error. SER Metro-Detroit President and CEO Eva Garza Dewaelsche is also the Owner and Publisher of EL CENTRAL Hispanic News.

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EDITORIAL OPINION

¿Por qué es importante votar en 2024?

Por José López Zamorano
Para La Red Hispana

"La política es el arte de lo posible, lo alcanzable, el arte de lo mejor".

La frase fue acuñada por el militar y político Otto von Bismarck, acreditado con la hazaña de lograr la reunificación de Alemania en 1871.

Más de 150 años después, la sabiduría contenida en la expresión de von Bismarck sigue siendo tan vigente como nunca. Y la reflexión sobre las palabras del estadista prusiano viene a colación en este año electoral, ante el bochornoso espectáculo que estamos presenciando en el Congreso federal en Washington, DC.

La lista de anomalías es larga, pero incluye: la incapacidad crónica por aprobar el presupuesto federal de manera oportuna, el condicionamiento de iniciativas como la reforma migratoria por cuestiones electorales, la falta de acuerdos para renovar plenamente la llamada Farm Bill y el programa SNAP qué beneficia más de 42 millones de personas de bajos ingresos, muchas de ellas de las minorías latina y negra, así como la promoción de un juicio de destitución a un funcionario federal, Alejandro Mayorkas, simplemente por desacuerdos de política migratoria.

Pero la cereza del pastel es el teatro de ingobernabilidad al interior del partido republicano, donde sus líderes operan metafóricamente con una pistola en la cabeza y están sujetos a los caprichos de uno solo de sus miembros para quedarse sin



trabajo en cualquier momento. Eso es lo que está haciendo Marjorie Taylor Green con el presidente de la Cámara Baja Mike Johnson.

La buena noticia es que el actual estado de cosas no tiene que ser una maldición eterna, porque está en las manos de los votantes el futuro no sólo de los miembros de la clase política, sino del destino de las principales políticas públicas del país en economía, creación de empleos, educación, salud, migración, aborto y muchos temas más.

El voto es clave para todos, pero especialmente para nosotros los latinos y otras minorías de color. ¿Por qué? enfrentamos desigualdades e injusticias sistémicas, incluidos problemas como la discriminación, la pobreza y la falta de acceso a los recursos.

El voto es una herramienta gratuita para abordar estas disparidades mediante la elección de funcionarios comprometidos con el avance de la justicia social y la igualdad para todos. Estamos hablando, por supuesto, desde el presidente del país, los senadores y representantes, los gobernadores, las asambleas estatales y miles de puestos locales.

Más de 36.2 millones de latinos son elegibles para votar el 5 de noviembre de este año, según el Centro Pew.

Si votamos los latinos podemos demostrar nuestro poder e influencia. Esto puede detonar una mayor atención por parte de los políticos, así como una mayor capacidad de respuesta a las necesidades y preocupaciones de las comunidades latinas.

Y para la próxima elección, considera postularse a

un puesto de elección popular. Actualmente más de 7,000 latinos y latinos son funcionarios, electos o designados en todo el país.

Las elecciones son el 5 de noviembre. Si eres una ciudadana o ciudadano estadounidense mayor 18 años y no te has registrado para votar, hazlo lo antes posible. Los 50 estados tienen plazos diferentes. Si tu estado lo permite, vota por correo o vota presencialmente el día de las elecciones.

Tu voto no sólo es tu voz, también lo es de quienes no pueden votar, pero se merecen un trato justo, digno y humanitario.

Ya era hora de buenas noticias para nuestra comunidad de migrantes.

Durante el año fiscal 2023, un total de 874,500 inmigrantes se convirtieron en ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos.

Es indudable que los funcionarios y empleados del Servicio de Ciudadanía e inmigración (USCIS) de Estados Unidos se merecen aplausos por haber logrado lo imposible: prácticamente eliminar el rezago de solicitudes de naturalización.

En el año fiscal 2023, USCIS recibió 10.9 millones de solicitudes y completó más de 10 millones de casos pendientes, ambas cifras récord en la historia de la agencia.

Pero eso no es todo, la agencia federal también fue capaz de reducir en casi la mitad el tiempo del procesamiento de los trámites de naturalización. El tiempo medio de procesamiento para los solicitantes de naturalización disminuyó de 10.5 meses a 6.1 meses al final del año fiscal.

Aunque la cifra de naturalizaciones no es un récord, toda vez que no rebasa la marca



de más de 1 millón de personas en 2022, se trata sin duda de un hito importante. Ojalá ese récord se rompa en 2024 y millones de el paso antes del alza de las tarifas en abril próximo.

Desde este espacio hemos abogado durante muchos años sobre la importancia de la naturalización en los Estados Unidos. Millones de latinas y latinos que residentes legales permanentes ya son elegibles el día de hoy.

Los beneficios de la ciudadanía son significativos, no solamente blinda a los inmigrantes de las deportaciones, sino abre la puerta para el ejercicio pleno de los derechos políticos, es decir votar en las elecciones, pero también postularse a cargos de elección popular.

A nivel nacional existen más de 7,000 latinas y latinos electos o designados en cargos públicos, de acuerdo con NALEO. Es un avance importante, pero palidece si lo comparamos con nuestro potencial como la minoría más importante de los Estados Unidos.

En el Congreso sólo tenemos 6 senadores y en la Cámara de Representantes 47 legisladores y legisladoras. Para tener “paridad”, es decir que el

número sea proporcional a nuestro peso demográfico, deberíamos tener 19 senadores y más de 80 representantes.

Es decir, nos falta mucho camino por recorrer, pero sólo será posible llegar a la meta si más latinas y latinos no sólo votamos, sino nos postulamos.

“Nuestra participación activa fomenta una sociedad más inclusiva y representativa, donde todas las voces tienen la oportunidad de ser escuchadas”, nos comenta el abogado migratorio Rafael Borrás.

En Estados Unidos existen más de medio millón de cargos de elección. Desde los sistemas escolares, los congresos estatales, alcaldes, funcionarios federales y presidente. Tú puedes ser el líder que necesita tu comunidad.

Más de 36.2 millones de latinos son elegibles para votar el 5 de noviembre de este año, según el Centro Pew. Si tú eres uno de ellos, regístrate para votar y ejerce tu derecho al voto. Y para el próximo ciclo, considera postularte y representar los intereses, los sueños y las aspiraciones de nuestra comunidad.

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4748 W Vernor Hwy, Detroit

May 4th & 5th
11:00am to 6:30pm

Live Music
Ballet Folklórico
Live Broadcast
Market
20+ Vendors
Artesanías
Street Food

Mexican Snacks-Desserts-Coffee
Face Painting - Kids Activities
Handmade Crafts - Soaps - Jewelry & More!

More Information

Scan

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DETROIT
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BUD LIGHT

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LA GRANDEZA ★ ESTÁ AL ★ RELOJ

